

Remarks

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 13, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 13, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 11, 18, 20, 27, 34, and 37 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-10, 12-17, 19, 21-26, 28-33, 35, and 36 have been canceled by Applicant without prejudice. Claims 11, 18, 20, 27, 34, and 37 stand rejected and by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 11 and 27 are amended to be written in independent form. Claims 18 and 34 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 11, 18, 20, 27, 34, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0072430 to *Huang et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Huang et al. does not disclose a method for processing a substrate comprising depositing an anti-reflective coating on the one or more amorphous carbon layers as required by claims 11 and 27 and asserted by the Examiner because the anti-reflective coating (*i.e.*, the BARC layer in paragraph [0066]) in *Huang et al.* is deposited between a SiO₂ layer and the photoresist mask, which is below the protective layer formed of amorphous carbon (see paragraph [0066], lines 1-4 and Figure 3). Therefore, *Huang et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a method for processing a substrate comprising depositing an anti-reflective coating on the one or more amorphous carbon layers, as recited in claims 11 and 27, and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

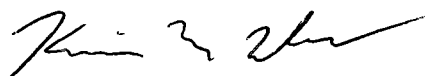
Claims 7, 15, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0072430 to *Huang et al.* Claims 7, 15, and 32 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0072430 to *Huang et al.* Claim 25 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed for at least the reasons discussed above.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants